

Thu, Jun 20, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- National pep rally sets the tone for June 29
- The song challenge is back!
- Confronting the L.A. City Council on fair wages
- Bishop Barber on *The ReidOut* and *The Daily Show*

Announcements



We are all in!

National pep rally shines a light on our growing movement

On Monday, PPC leaders hosted a [virtual national pep rally](#) with state and national leaders, 32 anchor partners and impacted people and advocates from over 40 states. Our goal: to continue to center poor and low-wage people in the 2024 election season and build momentum for the June 29 [Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington D.C. & to the Polls](#).

An impassioned array of speakers included PPC activists, social justice organizers and PPC leaders Bishop Barber, Shailly Gupta Barnes, Rev. A. Kazimir Brown, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Rev. Dr. Hanna Broome, as well as faith and labor leaders from around the country.

Bishop Barber opened by calling on us “to come together, move together, speak together, rise together and change this nation together.” Yara Allen, director of theomusicology, followed with the warm, welcoming song “We Belong!”

Gupta Barnes and Rev. Brown read the 17 demands and asked the question, “As 40 percent of this nation, one third of the electorate...what couldn't we do? What couldn't we do if we showed this country, showed those in power *our* power?”

▼ **Our 17-Point Agenda** ▼

1. Abolishing poverty as the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.
2. A living minimum wage of at least \$15 +/hour (indexed for inflation)
3. Full and expanded voting rights
4. No more voter suppression
5. Guaranteed workers' rights & labor rights
6. Healthcare for all
7. Affordable, adequate housing
8. Strong social welfare and safety net programs
9. An end to gun violence, profit and proliferation
10. Fully protected women's rights
11. Environmental justice that secures clean air & water
12. Justice for all Indigenous nations
13. Fully-funded public education
14. Just immigration laws
15. Addressing militarism and the war economy
16. Standing for peace not war; an immediate ceasefire in Gaza that allows humanitarian relief, the release of all hostages, and peace with justice to be pursued; and an end to genocide around the world
17. An end to hate, division, and the extremist political agenda

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Latosha Brown from Black Voters Matter sang “This Little Light of Mine” and rallied everyone with her message. “Every single problem that has ever been solved came out of the innovation around the problem,” she said. “We are the problem solvers! We are going to have to demonstrate what it takes to create and build a nation from different backgrounds and experiences. We’ve got the power and the numbers to take folks out and put folks in who are going to create the kind of policy we need. We gotta believe that we are the change that we see!”

Mariana Pineda from the New York PPC broke our hearts as she shared her story of losing her job as a schoolteacher when she came down with long COVID. “So many of us are just one catastrophic illness, one unexpected medical diagnosis away from bankruptcy,” she said. She then laid out one of the most grievous injustices we need to change: “At the end of the day, you are only valuable to this society when you are able-bodied and able to produce a profit.”

But Mariana Pineda isn’t giving up. Her cry to us: “Get on the bus and meet me in D.C.!”

Watch the rally on [Facebook](#) and know you belong in D.C. on [June 29!](#)

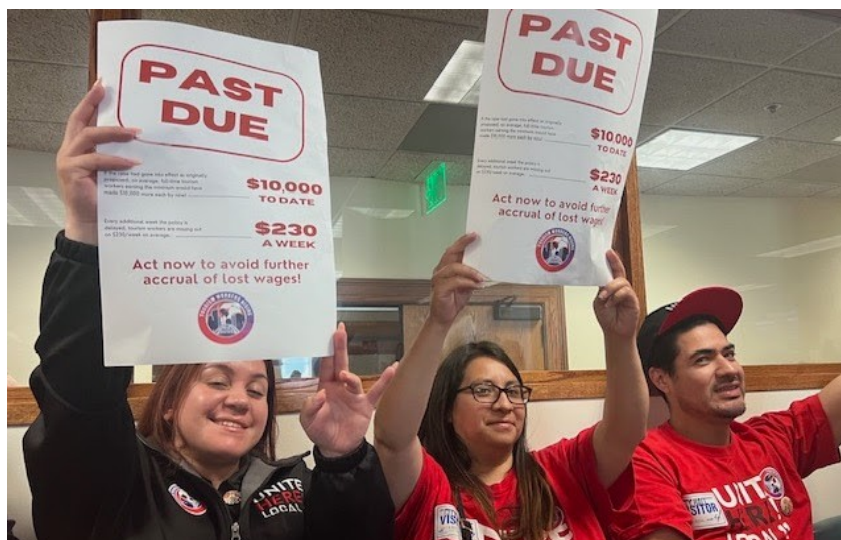


“Everybody’s Got a Right to Live” Song Challenge

“Everybody’s Got a Right to Live” has been a central message of the PPC since it was conceived in 1968. When we launched the Campaign in 2018, we revived this song and used its power to connect our movement across the country during 40 days of moral fusion direct action. We invite you to join us as we raise our voices and demand that “Everybody’s Got a Right to Live.”

You’ll find instructions on learning, recording and posting your version of the song [here](#). Want to get inspired? Check out [Arnaé Batson’s powerful rendition](#).

News



Los Angeles tourism workers can't wait!

Community groups and faith leaders joined tourism workers to pack the Los Angeles City Council Travel, Trade, and Tourism Committee and urge the council to take up a policy measure to raise wages that was introduced over a year ago. The proposal would have increased wages of hotel, airport and hospitality workers to \$25 an hour on July 1, 2023. If the raise had gone into effect as originally proposed, full-time workers would have made \$10,000 more by now on average. Meanwhile, the cost of rent, health care and everyday necessities continues to rise.

PPC activists were in the house! Lenore Navarro Dowling, Immaculate Heart Community and CLUE member, recounted stories of workers who work second or third jobs for survival, drive for hours on end to afford housing and are forced to choose between paying rent and buying groceries. "I'm not sure how you can hear these first-hand accounts and not take action for over a year," she said.

Quad chair Nancy Berlin challenged the City Council "to be part of the solution to alleviate poverty, and you have a proposal before you to do that. Let's get this done as soon as possible!"

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE

PPC in the media



“You’ve got to fight like...Heaven!”

Bishop Barber appears on MSNBC and *The Daily Show*

Bishop Barber continued to raise awareness of the power of the PPC, and the mobilization of people experiencing poverty. On MSNBC’s *The ReidOut* he discussed the new book, *White Poverty*, and highlighted to listeners that “we have got to have a third reconstruction in this country, where poor and low-wage whites and blacks come together. Poor and low-wage people now represent 30 percent of the electorate; in battleground states over 40 percent. That’s a power bloc that must express itself in terms of policy.”

And don’t miss his appearance on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, where the PPC message is delivered with laughter. “We’re trying to show people that the numbers are there! It’s not a big lift,” Bishop Barber said. “The number one reason people don’t vote is that politician’s don’t go to these communities. But we’re here now,” he said. Addressing poor and low-wage people, he added, “Let’s mobilize to make sure that they never forget you ever again.”

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.